

ABSTRACT

A surgical access valve is adapted to introduce an instrument into a body cavity or conduit. The valve includes a valve housing and a seal material disposed in the housing. Portions of the seal material define an instrument channel that is normally closed to inhibit fluid communication through the seal material. A dilator is moveable distally to open at least a portion of the instrument channel thereby facilitating passage of the instrument through the seal material, and is also moveable proximally to facilitate formation of a seal around the instrument. The dilator can be biased to a distal position and detented in a proximal position to facilitate one single-handed operation of the valve.